



# w e l c o m e

"Now I bring the first fruits of the soil that you, O LORD, have given me." Deuteronomy 26:10

CCCstaff

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## Merry Christmas

"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:10-11



Celebrate the Lord's Supper with us on New Year's Day, next Sunday, January 1, 2012!

Weekly Operating Budget: \$4,500  
Dec. 18 General Offering: \$3,698.75

The offering box is located in the hallway. CCC gives 15% of its regular offering to missions. Any additional offerings to missions should be a sacrifice beyond your regular commitment to the ministry of Clayton Community Church.

Would you like to know about Clayton Community Church? Please ask one of the Ushers for our Welcome booklet. Children are dismissed to their Sunday school classes at 11 a.m. The cry room is available for those with infants who need to be fed and cuddled. It's located to your right as you enter the sanctuary. Nursery is available for infants through 2 1/2-year-olds on the bottom floor of the Education Wing. Worship Bags (crayons & paper) are available during the service. Shalom!

## Jesus' Christmas Gifts to You

Part I of II. Excerpts from *The Grace of God* by William MacDonald

When a person becomes a Christian, he at once becomes fabulously wealthy--not wealthy in material things, which last only for this life, but wealthy in spiritual blessings, which endure forever.



The expression "the riches of his grace" is used by Paul to describe inexhaustible treasures. They are all lavished upon the sinner who trusts in Christ.

You see, when a person is converted, he receives Christ, and in receiving Him, he receives every good thing that God can give. All the wealth of heaven is found in Him.

In giving Christ, God has given the greatest of all gifts. And since He has already given the greatest, He will not withhold any lesser gift. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32)

What then are some of the treasures that belong to the person who has trusted Jesus Christ?



1. First of all, he is saved--saved from the penalty of sin (Romans 8:1); saved from the power of sin (Romans 6:14); and he is promised that he will one day be saved from the very presence of sin (I John 3:2). He is saved from the pangs of hell forever. That is such a wonderful salvation that no monetary value could be placed upon it.

2. Secondly, he is born again or born from above (Titus 3:5, 6). At his first birth, he was born with a wicked, incurable, fallen nature. When he is born again, he receives a new nature the very life of Christ Himself. Can any adequate value be placed on such a blessing?

3. Again, he is justified (Romans 5:1). This means that God now declares him to be righteous. Instead of being clothed with the filthy rags of his own self-righteousness, he is now clothed with the very righteousness of God Himself. So perfect is his standing before God that no one can ever condemn him (Romans 8:33). In fact, he is now better off in Christ than he ever could have been in Adam--even if Adam had never sinned (Romans 5:15-21). The value of such grace defies human description.

4. He is redeemed, that is, he has been bought back from the slave market of sin (Colossians 1:14). And if this does not seem stupendous to you, just remember that the price of this redemption was the precious blood of Christ (I Peter 1:18, 19). Could the Lord have cared for a sinner so much that He would pay such a price? He did! Just think of it!

5. The believer receives the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7). Those sins are removed by God as far at the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). He has promised that He will remember them no more (Hebrews 8:12). Angels might well gasp at such an exhibition of grace.

(continued on reverse)

6. Next, he is reconciled (Romans 5:10). No longer is there enmity between him and his God. Peace has been made through the blood of Christ's cross. The Lord Jesus has settled the sin question, and now the conflict is over. Such a peace is priceless.

7. The Christian is sanctified (I Corinthians 1:2). This means that God has set him apart from the world to belong to Himself. It also means that God undertakes to make the believer more and more Christlike. As has been said, He is so pleased with His beloved Son that He wants to make many more like Him. Such grace causes the saint to cry, "Whence this waste of love to me!"

8. Every believer is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13). He becomes a member of the true church, which is an object lesson to the angelic hosts of the manifold wisdom of God (Ephesians 3:10). He also becomes a member of the bride of Christ, a position that speaks more of intimacy and affection than human language can express.

9. The Holy Spirit is given to the saint as an earnest or pledge of what is to follow (Ephesians 1:14). Just as surely as he has the Holy Spirit, so surely will he receive the heavenly inheritance. He is as sure of heaven as if he were already there. This is what God's grace does for those who trust the Savior.

10. The Holy Spirit is also given as the seal of ownership (Ephesians 1:13). No created being could ever be labeled more royally than this. The believer is marked out by God as belonging to Him by the gift of the Holy Spirit. Who but God could act so graciously toward unworthy men?

11. Still more staggering is the fact that the believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19). To think that one of the members of the Godhead should dwell in the Christian! Indeed, the Scriptures teach that all three members of the Trinity dwell in the saint. His body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 6:19). His heart is Christ's home (Ephesians 3:17; Colossians 1:27). He is indwelt by God, the Father (Ephesians 4:6).

12. He is accepted in the beloved One (Ephesians 1:6). He now stands before God in all the acceptability of God's beloved Son. *"Near, so very near to God, I could not nearer be, For in the Person of His Son, I am as near as He."* He has a perfect position before God because Christ has that position. And he will be accepted as long as Christ is accepted--forever! ■

The next 12 points to be continued  
in next Sunday's bulletin...

## End of the Year Tithing

TODAY is the last Sunday to tithe for the year 2011! But don't worry, you still have time... Try to get your year-end tithes to the church on Tuesday, Dec. 27 at 10 AM. Need an extra couple days? The final 2011 deposit will be Friday, Dec. 30 at noon!

## points of interest

- ☉ "Raise the Roof" - Donations are being collected to replace the fellowship hall roof. Envelopes are available in the hallway. Drop your donation in the offering box. The amount needed is \$14,000; the total is approximate and will vary depending on market conditions. So far \$5,333 has been received, with less than \$9,000 left to raise!
- ☉ **One-on-One Discipling** is a mentoring program to get one grounded in the basics of the Christian faith. Contact Barb Foy or Jack Scharr for more information, or fill out a discipling information card and drop it in the offering box. *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I commanded you."* (Mat. 28:19-20)

## Prayer Requests

Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem  
& the Middle East

Our Soldiers Stateside  
Ft. Bliss, TX - Nate Wagoner  
Westpoint - Mark Allen

Our Soldiers Overseas:  
Afghanistan - John Oros, Joe Seavey  
South Korea - Joshua Hudson  
Israeli Army - Sarah Mizrachi, Liel Meyuseff

*If you have updates to this list, please contact the CCC office. To join the prayer chain, e-mail the church and we will send you an invitation to the CCC Prayer Warriors Yahoo Group.*

## ongoing weekly events

- Adult Sunday School: Sunday before church, 9:30-10:30 AM in the CCC fellowship hall. Open to all.
- Kibbutz Girls: Monday, 6:30-8:30 PM at CCC. Geri Weis, 314-849-2977
- Chesterfield Small Group: (On break until Jan. 10.) Jake Rosen & Jack Scharr, 314-504-8539
- South City Small Group: Tuesday, 7 PM. Roger & Debbie Phillips, 314-781-8482
- Beit Chesed Messianic Congregation Shabbat Potluck: THIS Friday, Dec. 30, 6:30 PM. Jake Rosen, 314-504-8539, [www.beitchesed.com](http://www.beitchesed.com)